

Compact States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont to implement the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, effective August 8, 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 8, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Richard M. McKee, Director, USDA/AMS/Dairy Division, Room 2968, South Building, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, DC 20090-6456 (202) 720-4392.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 147 of the 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act (Pub. L. 104-127) establishes Congressional consent for the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact (the Compact) entered into by the States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont subject to several conditions. The FAIR Act provides that "Based upon a finding by the Secretary of a compelling public interest in the Compact region, the Secretary may grant the States that have ratified the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, as of the date of enactment of this title, the authority to implement the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact." The Secretary issued the following on August 8, 1996:

Finding and Authorization of Secretary Dan Glickman on the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact

Whereas the State legislatures in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont have approved the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, the governor of each Compact State has signed a resolution supporting the Compact, the Congress has consented to the Compact in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996, and approximately ninety-five percent of the comments the Department of Agriculture received regarding the Compact supported its implementation, I hereby find that a compelling public interest in the Compact region exists and authorize the Compact States to implement the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact. This finding and authorization shall be effective immediately and shall be published in the Federal Register.

On August 9, 1996, Secretary Glickman issued the following press statement concerning the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact:

The State legislatures in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont have approved the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, the governor of each Compact State has signed a resolution supporting the Compact, and the Congress has consented to the Compact in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996. In addition, approximately 95 percent of the comments the Department of Agriculture received regarding the Compact supported its

implementation. For these reasons, I have found that a compelling public interest in the Compact region exists and have authorized the Compact States to implement the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact. This finding and authorization became effective today and will be published in the Federal Register.

While it is unclear what specific actions the Compact Commission will take to implement the Compact, I am concerned about the potential effects of the Compact in several respects. I intend, therefore, to monitor closely its implementation. I also encourage Congress to exercise its oversight function and monitor the implementation of the Compact. If my expectations are not met, or if conditions otherwise warrant, I will revoke this authorization to implement the Compact.

I expect that the Compact Commission will implement the Compact in a way that does not burden other regions of the country, consistent with the provisions of the FAIR Act and the Compact. I would be greatly concerned if the Commission restricts in any way the ability of producers to ship milk into the Compact region. I will monitor whether the Compact has any adverse effects on the income of dairy producers outside the Compact region as well as the extent to which the Commission utilizes its authority to impose production controls to minimize the effect of the Compact on other dairy producing regions. I also expect the Commission to ensure that its actions are flexible and responsive to changing supply, demand and price conditions in milk markets.

Perhaps most significantly, I am deeply concerned about and will closely monitor the effect of the Compact on consumers, especially low-income families, within the Compact region. I expect that the Commission will pay close attention to and monitor the effects of its decisions on consumers before and after it takes any action. I also expect the Commission and the Compact States to provide assistance to offset any increased burden on low-income families in the Compact region. I am also concerned about the effect of the Compact on the Department of Agriculture's nutrition programs, and I expect the Commission to exercise its authority to reimburse participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and to fulfill its obligation to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation, as provided in the Compact and in the FAIR Act.

The Compact is a transitional milk marketing system for the region and will expire when a new nationwide Federal milk marketing order structure is implemented. I believe the approach outlined in this statement offers the best opportunity to strengthen the dairy industry in the Compact region during the transition to the reformed milk marketing order structure required by the FAIR Act.

Dated: August 22, 1996.

Shirley R. Watkins,

Acting Assistant Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

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Forest Service

Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee Meeting Notice

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee will meet on September 11, 1996, at the Skamania County Annex in Stevenson, Washington. The purpose of the meeting is to continue work on subcommittee tasks from previous meetings. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. and continue until 4:30 p.m. The meeting will resume at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m.

Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Subcommittee recommendations on Advisory Committee vision and work priorities, (2) Advisory Committee Monitoring Opportunities, (3) Update on Advisory Committee Charter Renewals, (4) Forest Plan Allocation assumptions and their relationship to timber harvest levels, (5) Subcommittee update on socioeconomic health measures. (6) Public Open Forum.

All Southwest Washington Provincial Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. This open forum provides opportunity for the public to bring issues, concerns, and discussion topics to the Advisory Committee. The open forum is scheduled as part of agenda item (6) for this meeting. Interested speakers will need to register prior to the open forum period. The committee welcomes the public's written comments on committee business at any time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions regarding this meeting to Sue Lampe, Public Affairs, at (360) 750-5091, or write Forest Headquarters Office, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, PO Box 8944, Vancouver, WA 98668-8944.

Dated: August 20, 1996.

Ted C. Stubblefield,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 96-21923 Filed 8-27-96; 8:45 am]

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ARCHITECTURAL AND TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS COMPLIANCE BOARD

Meeting

AGENCY: Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.